(viii) Replace life expired and technological obsolete switches with new Digital switches.

(ix) To have telegraph offices in all the 30 revenue districts of the state.

(x) Computerised billing accounting, fault repair services and directory enquiry services in all SSAs (Secondary Switching Areas).

(xi) To provide single window customer service centres.

(xii) To provide telecom facilities in tribal and hilly areas, industrial growth centres and sensitive border areas.

(xiii) Expansion of ISDN (Integrated Digital Switching Network), Internet and other new services.

(xiv) Introduction of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop), HDSL (High-bit rate Digital Subscriber Lines), OFC (Optical Fibre Cables) Technologies in the local network and CDMA (Code Division Multiplexing Access), PMP (Point to Multipoint) for providing VPTs (Village Public Telephones).

Telephone Connections on Demand

†675. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set out the target of creating capacity for providing telephone connections on demand in the country;

(b) if so, by when this target will be achieved in the whole country;

(c) whether Government have prepared an effective scheme to achieve the target; and

(d) if so, the total amount estimated to be spent on the scheme?

†Original notice of the quesiton was received in Hindi.

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ninth Five Year Plan of DoT envisages to provide telephone on demand progressively by 31-3-2002 with the private sector supplementing the efforts of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The expenditure for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been estimated at Rs. 73619 crores.

Corruption in GPO

676. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "Corruption touches new heights in Delhi GPO" published in Hindustan Times dated 4th October, 1999;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has since been conducted in the matter; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof and the action Government have taken or propsoe to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Enquiries made into the case reveal that one Shri Tarvinder Singh purchased a National Savings Certificate for Rs. 5000/- on 7.3.90 from Delhi General Post Office. His application for the purchase of certificate was registered under No. 4381. The complainant produced his certificate for discharge on 3.7.99 but was refused payment on the plea that the said certificate stood discharged. The complainant thereupon approached the Office of Director Postal Accounts who informed that the certificate in question, according to their records, had not been encashed. Being confronted with this information, the relevant records were checked and was found that the note regarding discharge of another certificate registered under No. 4382 was erroneously recorded on the document pertaining to the NSC of the complainant, namely, Sh. Tarvinder Singh, registered under No. 4381. The certificate was thereafter duly discharged and the payment made to the complainant on 6.10.99. Suitable action has been initiated against the officials at fault.

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